

Louisville Journal

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LOUISVILLE JOURNAL

The postal currency has been so successfully counterfeited in New York that it is with the greatest difficulty that the bogus notes can be distinguished from the genuine.

John Wister, an old merchant of Philadelphia, died on Wednesday last in the eighteenth year of his age.

To the Editors of the Louisville Journal:

DANVILLE, Ky., Dec. 10, 1862.

GENTLEMEN: I consider it no more than justice to correct a gross error contained in the following extract:

Dr. John H. Morrison, Surgeon of the 1st Wisconsin volunteer infantry, and acting Medical Director at Danville, Ky., has of late introduced a remedy, until now entirely unknown to the medical profession, for the cure of typhoid fever, typical of all other forms of disease. His theory is that the prime cause of those diseases is the non-oxygenization of the blood, and he introduces, by apparatus of his own invention, oxygenated gas by inhalation. The experiments have been so successful.

Surgeon Geo. G. Shumard, Medical Director of Danville district, suggested and instituted the experiment of administering oxygen gas by inhalation. Having in my possession a copy of his official report upon the subject, I take the liberty of transmitting the following extracts from it, which I hope will be sufficient to show who originated the important experiments referred to:

* * * * *

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Evening Dispatches.

Union Army in Tennessee Advancing!

Rebel Scouts Cutting Telegraph Wires!

A Great Battle is in Progress!

Heavy Cannon in Operation on Both Sides!

The Smoke of Battle Hides Results!

[Special Dispatch to the Louisville Journal.]

NASHVILLE, Dec. 10.

MASSES, ENTHUSIASM: The whole army moves a short distance to-day. Gen. Negley leaves the command of the post. We had a small fight in front yesterday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.

The Committee to-day agreed upon three appropriation bills for the next fiscal year, which will be reported to the House on Monday.

They are the army bill, which appropriates \$74,000,000; the West Virginia bill, which is estimated as usual; and the fortification bill, which makes unusually large appropriations for New York harbor and various points on the coast of Maine, and the Tortugas and Florida ports.

It is understood to be the intention of the committees to report all the appropriation bills to-day.

Major General Sedgwick has been assigned to the command of the 9th army corps, lately commanded by General Burnside, and will join it on Monday or Tuesday next.

General Harney's Ferry southward formed a part of the general movement, was at a late hour known to be between Strasburg and Manassas.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.

This morning, Hampton's rebel cavalry attacked Harney, a town half way between Washington and Fredericksburg, and captured the telegraph wires and carried off the operators, and paraded a number of officers who had been captured.

In a recent article of mine, I set out the comparisons between healthy blood and different forms of autumnal disease, and succeeded in satisfying myself that such a definition of the disease was correct.

If oxygen could be given to the patient in excess of carbonic acid in the blood of all the cases examined.

If therefore oxygen were to be given to the patient by any means so artificially supplied to the circulation, it might afford a valuable remedy in the treatment of autumnal and various other forms of disease. It also occurred to me, that the best method of administration would be that which nature has herself established for the reception of oxygen, the lungs. I therefore resolved to try the experiment as soon as a favorable opportunity offered.

In 1857 it was called to see a case of severe congestive chill, in which the patient, a man about thirty years of age, was cold and nearly pulseless. A doctor friend of mine, Dr. Newman, who had been employed in such cases, freely recited a small quantity of nitrous oxide gas was prepared and administered to the patient by himself, and after the gas had been inhaled in volume, and in about an hour from the time of the inhalation the extremities became warm, and the patient recovered from his chill. As other relatives may have exercised an important influence in relieving the patient, I contented to await the result of other experiments before publishing the case.

My other duties called me to another portion of the United States, and I had no further opportunity for repeating the experiment, until the 22d of the present month.

Last evening, while I was at home, received a telegram from Harney, Alabam, I repeatedly urged the employment of the gas in the treatment of disease. The different medical officers stationed at that post were very favorable, but thought it might not be a general remedy, but from some cause or other "the gas was not administered. I also requested Dr. Newman, a highly accomplished physician, of the city of Huntsville, to employ the gas, and he might deem favorable for its use.

A number of physicians in Cincinnati were also urged a year ago to administer the gas, but none did so.

On the 23d inst., a case of typhoid fever (case No. 1,) of a hopeless character, was reported from Danville General Hospital No. 3. As could not therefore be my duty to give up the experiment, I resolved to try the effects of the gas. Assistant Surgeon Devendorf was accordingly directed to administer the gas to him, immediately, which he did in the presence of Assistant Surgeon Semple, A. C. Devendorf, Simpson, and Avery were present.

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